



**The Catholic League for
Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia (Liga)
St. John Paul the Great Scholarship
2024 – 2025 Academic Year**



Instructions: Complete each item on the application. If needed, use additional sheets. Please print. **All submitted documents must be postmarked by March 31, 2024.**

Enclose with your application

- Wallet-size or passport-size photo (full-face) with your last and first name written on the reverse side. If selected as recipient, photo will be posted on the website of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia. Must be actual photo, not photocopy. No substitutions or variations will be accepted by the Committee
- Current official transcript of your academic record
- Your essay, in English or Polish (see more details below in this Application)
- Recommendation letter from your parish pastor detailing your parish involvement and Mass attendance.
- Additional recommendation letters, on official letterhead, describing your parish and community involvement, moral demeanor, and spiritual formation. Letters cannot be from family members.
- Copy of your/your parents' latest Federal Income Tax Return.
- Declaration page – signed and dated by the applicant.

Eligibility Requirements

- Proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residency (US passport page with name/photo or green card)
- Proof of residency in Region: VII (IL, IN, WI) (copy of ID)
- Between 18-24 years old with at least one parent of Polish descent
- Currently enrolled in an accredited college or university or High School Senior in application process
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.00 (A=4.00) as supported by an official transcript from current institution
- Need for financial assistance, as evidenced by latest Federal Income Tax return

Additional Information

- Scholarship recipients **must** attend awards ceremony or forfeit the scholarship. The Awards Ceremony will be on **Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 6:00pm** at St. Ferdinand Parish Chapel, 5900 W. Barry, Chicago.
- Recipients **MUST** attend monthly formation meetings. They are on the 3rd Sunday of each month from Sept. to June, from 4:00 to 6:30pm at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Lemont. Committee reserves right to change date/time if situation demands change. Before you send in the Scholarship Application be sure you can commit to attending these meetings in person. No exceptions allowed.
- Scholarship is pending acceptance and enrollment at qualified college/university
- St. John Paul the Great Scholarship Formation Committee, with the direction of Bishop Andrew Wypych, will review and select recipients based on defined point-based criteria. Their decision is final.
- Selected recipients will be notified by mail/email. The office cannot confirm acceptance by phone.
- Scholarship funds are sent directly to the recipient's college/university
- Scholarship could be renewed for a maximum of four years (\$5,000 per year, paid in two installments of \$2,500 each). Applicant must apply each year and meet each requirement annually.
- The Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia encourages all scholarship recipients, upon graduation, to join our efforts of financially assisting young people of Polonia and sponsor, throughout their adult lives, at least one student's full scholarship.

Saint John Paul the Great Scholarship Application – Region VII (IL, IN, WI)
2024 – 2025 Academic Year

APPLICANT'S FULL NAME _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP CODE _____ PHONE NO. _____

PRIMARY E-MAIL _____ SECONDARY E-MAIL _____

Student's Marital Status _____ Spouse's Name (if applicable) _____

Mother's First, Last, and Maiden Name and E-mail

Father's First and Last Name and E-mail

Describe your Polish Ancestry _____

List your siblings (write their name, age, and do they live in your household?)

- ☐ None
☐ _____
☐ _____
☐ _____

Applicant Family's Total Annual Income ☐ Under \$50,000 ☐ \$50,000 to \$100,000 ☐ Over \$100,000

Applicant's Academic Background

High School _____ Year of Graduation _____ GPA _____

Polish Language School _____ Year of Graduation (*Matura*) _____

Applicant's Current Education Status:

- ☐ In senior year of high school
☐ Enrolled full-time in an accredited 4-year college/university
☐ Enrolled full-time in a community college ☐ Enrolled full-time in a graduate program

Where will you attend in the 2024-2025 academic year?

College/University: _____ Current GPA _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Major/Minor _____ Starting Date _____ Anticipated Graduation Date _____

Describe financial aid, grants, or other scholarships you have received

Volunteer involvement in religious and other organizations

Name and address of your parish where you volunteer: _____

In what ministry do you volunteer?

- ☐ Altar Server: ____ years ☐ Lector/Eucharistic Minister: ____ years ☐ Parish choir/music ministry: ____ years
☐ Other parish ministry (describe): _____ How many years? _____

Describe your involvement in any other groups or organizations _____

Describe your involvement in Polish organizations and activities _____

Describe how other members of your family are involved in the parish and other organizations, including the Polish-American community _____

List your hobbies, interests, special skills, academic honors, distinctions, and achievements _____

How did you hear about this Scholarship? _____

To submit an application, be sure that you fulfill each requirement:

- ☐ Official transcript from your current educational institution
- ☐ Letter of recommendation from your pastor with contact information, including full name, email, and signature
- ☐ Additional letters of recommendation from the leader of religious or civic organization where you volunteer or work
- ☐ Copy of your/your parents' latest Federal Income Tax Return
- ☐ Small photograph (head & shoulders; wallet-size or passport-size); Print full name on reverse
- ☐ Proof of citizenship/permanent residency
- ☐ Your essay, in English or Polish, (between 500-800 words) addressing each of the following:
 - ☐ In what way does St. John Paul the Great influence your and your family's life
 - ☐ Describe how your faith guides your life and how you integrate it into your life now and for your future.
 - ☐ How has your Polish heritage influenced your life and future goals?
 - ☐ Why have you chosen your specific area of study? What are your future career goals?
 - ☐ Why are you seeking a scholarship from the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia?

Scholarship is pending acceptance and enrollment at qualified college/university. The St. John Paul the Great Scholarship Committee, with the direction of Bishop Andrew Wypych, will review and select recipients based on defined point-based criteria. Their decision is final.

Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia
2330 W. 118th St. Chicago, IL 60643 312-534-5050
office@catholicleaguepolonia.org www.catholicleaguepolonia.org

Declaration & Affirmation Form

2024 – 2025 Academic Year

In signing below, I pledge to actively support the mission of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia and meet all requirements of the scholarship.

I declare that during the years of my studies and after graduation, I actively will:

- **care for my intellectual-cultural-spiritual development through continued Christian-Catholic formation and participate in the monthly formation meetings designated by the Scholarship Committee**
- promote my Polish heritage and my Roman Catholic faith in all my activities and endeavors
- engage in the works of evangelization and social justice “for the greater glory of God” and for the common good of the family of Polonia, my homeland, and the world
- apply to my daily life the social teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and Christian-Catholic principles while working together with Liga and Polonia’s organizations
- participate in charitable and volunteer initiatives offered by the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia (Liga) and its benefactors for a minimum of four hours per quarter year
- be a spiritual supporter of the Catholic League (Liga) and pray for its intentions and benefactors
- aim to become a future financial supporter of the St. John Paul the Great Scholarship Formation Fund, and in my lifetime (as my financial ability permits), contribute, at least, the cost of one full scholarship.

I affirm:

- **that the statements and information provided by me in this application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I am of Polish descent, a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, and a resident of the State of (indicate state)_____.**
- that an incomplete or misrepresented application will invalidate my right to be considered for a scholarship from the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia (*Liga*). In accepting the scholarship from *Liga*, I understand the scholarship funds will be sent directly to the educational institution I attend. I authorize the Catholic League (Liga) Scholarship Committee to process and review my application materials.

(Printed name of scholarship applicant) (Signature of scholarship applicant) (Date)

Parent’s or Guardian’s Signature (if applicant is under 18 years of age) (Date)